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January 23, 2003

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APR 21 2003

GROUP 3600

VIA FIRST CLASS MAIL

Box: USPTO
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Re: U.S. National Phase Application of PCT International Application No. PCT/DE99/03259 of HANNIG, Hans-Jurgen and EISERMANN, Ralf for "Panel and Panel Fastening System"; International Filing Date: 09 October 1999; U.S. Application Serial No. 10/019,195; Filed: June 3, 2002; Our Docket No. 009646/00004

Honorable Commissioner:

Enclosed for filing in the above-identified application please find the following:

1. Information Disclosure Statement submitted under 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b) (2 pages total plus 1 reference document) and PTO-1449.
2. Our post card. Please date stamp and return.

No fee is considered necessary for filing such Information Disclosure Statement before the first office action on the present application. Please charge any unanticipated fees, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No.: 50-1479 (a duplicate copy of this charge authorization is attached).

Sincerely,

Jeffrey C. Maynard
Reg. No. 46,208

Enclosures

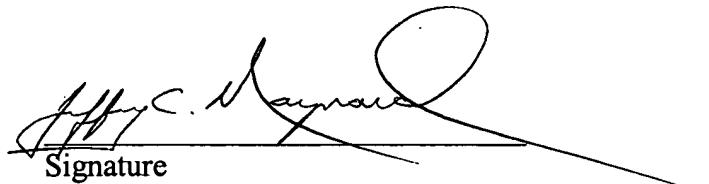
Commissioner for Patents

March 11, 2003

Page 2

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I HEREBY CERTIFY that the above-referenced documents, for Application Serial No. 10/019,195, are being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Box USPTO, Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231, on this date.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey C. Maynard". The signature is written over a horizontal line and includes a large, stylized loop at the end.

Signature

1478738



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

| | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <i>In re</i> Appln. of: | HANNIG, Hans-Jurgen et al. | <i>a/Bir et al. CR 4-25-0</i> |
| Appln. No.: | 10/019,195 | Examiner: To be assigned |
| Filed: | June 3, 2002 | Art Unit: 3629 |
| For: | PANEL AND PANEL FASTENING SYSTEM | |

March 11, 2003
09646/4

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Honorable Commissioner:

Enclosed is a copy of the following reference document.

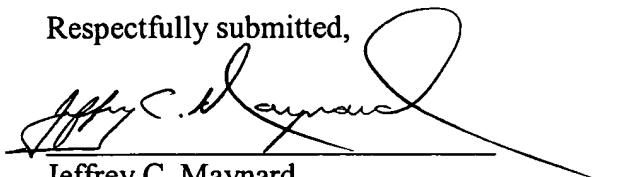
| <u>Publication No.</u> | <u>Inventor(s)/Patentee</u> |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| JP 08-109734 | Nat'l House Ind. Co. Ltd. |

The above reference is submitted herewith along with form PTO-1449 for the convenience of the Examiner. Regarding the foreign language reference listed on the enclosed PTO-1449, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(3), Applicants note that the reference is provided as exemplary of fastening systems for fastening floor panel structures. Applicants have identified on the enclosed PTO-1449 the drawing figures that are particularly reflective of such fastening systems.

Furthermore, as stated in 37 C.F.R. 1.97, the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as an admission that the information submitted herewith is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. 1.56(b).

The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the information submitted herein and to return an initialized copy of the Information Disclosure Statement Form PTO-1449 to Applicants' undersigned counsel.

Respectfully submitted,



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